

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO

UNCLAS STATE 059596

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, MX

SUBJECT: SMITHSONIAN FOLKLIFE FESTIVAL

REF: MEXICO 2747

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1. PLEASE INFORM IRENE VAZQUEZ CONTRACT BEING INITIATED FOR ORTEGA, JANUARY 15 THROUGH JULY 30, IN AMOUNT OF DOLLARS 3,900.

2. SMITHSONIAN WILL BE PLEASED RECEIVE ORTEGA AND VAZQUEZ IN WHATEVER POSITIONS THEY MAY OCCUPY WITH RELATION TO THE PERFORMERS AS DETERMINED BY GOM. SMITHSONIAN'S UNDERSTANDING HAD BEEN THAT IT WAS UP TO GOM TO DESIGNATE A FOLKLORIST, TO ASSIST WITH THE PRESENTATION, AND A TOUR ADMINISTRATOR WHO WOULD ACCOMPANY THE PARTICIPANTS, AND REIMBURSE THEM ACCORDINGLY. PARTICIPANTS ARE FORBIDDEN BY VISA RESTRICTIONS FROM RECEIVING ANY COMPENSATION OR REIMBURSEMENT FROM SMITHSONIAN BEYOND THE BOARD, ROOM AND DAILY POCKET MONEY OF TEN DOLLARS.

3. GOM MAY HAVE SUFFICIENT CONFIDENCE IN ORTEGA SO THAT HE
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CAN BE BOTH PRESENTER AND TOUR ADMINISTRATOR. LAST YEAR'S

EXPERIENCE SUGGESTS TOUR ADMINISTRATOR,MUST BE PERSON
OF CONSIDERABLE STRENGTH TO EXERCISE FIRM HAND WITH
PARTICIPANTS AND THEIR PROBLEMS AND COMPLAINTS .

4. SMITHSONIAN WILL BE PLEASED TO RECEIVE VAZQUEZ BUT
SUGGESTS GOM DETERMINE WHAT HER ASSIGNMENT WOULD BE.
SMITHSONIAN PREFERS GROUP MEMBERS STICKING WITH ENTIRE
PROGRAM, WASHINGTON AND ON TOUR. THUS TOUR CAN
BENEFIT FROM THE GROUP SOLIDARITY AND SHARING OF
RESPONSIBILITIES WHICH DEVELOP WHILE IN WASHINGTON.

5. AS VAZQUEZ SPEAKS VERY LIMITED ENGLISH, URGE THAT
EMBASSY DETERMINE ORTEGA'S COMPETENCE IN ENGLISH AND
PRESS FOR SECOND AIDE WHO IS FLUENT IN ENGLISH IF ORTEGA
IS NOT. KISSINGER

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